

#### Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Director and State Health Officer

**Governor Dave Freudenthal** 

Date: April 5, 2010

Ref: 10-117-CN

## Dear Case Managers:

In the fall 2009, the Developmental Disabilities Division (Division) announced we were making significant changes to the Adult Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver, Child DD Waiver, and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver. The changes were being made to achieve specific outcomes for participants and families, including adding the option to self-direct services, adding services that may better meet participants' needs, and removing the "aging out" situation. The changes included beginning a new Support Options Waiver and Comprehensive Waiver and ending the Child DD Waiver and the Adult DD Waiver effective July 1, 2010. These changes were contingent upon approval of the new waivers by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by early spring so the Division could successfully implement the new waivers by July 1, 2010.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has informed the Division that the Support Options Waiver and Comprehensive Waiver will not receive approval within the required timeframe for the Division to implement these changes effectively and with the least amount of impact on participants, families, and providers. Therefore, the Division has made the decision to incorporate many of the proposed changes by renewing the Child DD Waiver and amending the current Adult DD and Acquired Brain Injury Waivers, effective July 1, 2010. The Division will not move forward with the Support Options Waiver or the Comprehensive Waiver at this time.

Below is specific information on how this change will impact participants, family members, guardians, and providers that you work with. Your role as a case manager will be to work with participants, family members, guardians, and teams to understand these changes and implement them into the plan of care as necessary. You should acquaint yourselves with the new services, including self-direction and start reviewing these at home visits, where appropriate, to help families think about whether or not new services need to be added to the plan of care or whether they should have a team meeting to talk about the new services for that participant. Self-direction also brings new team members to the participant's team, such as Public Partnerships, LLC or an Agency with Choice.

- The Child DD, Adult DD and ABI Waivers will offer all the same services currently in the waiver.
- Participants will not be required to transition to a new waiver unless they are turning 21 years of age and will need to apply for the Adult DD or ABI Waiver.
- The Child DD Waiver will offer new services designed to better meet participants and families' needs, including Supported Employment and Companion Services for participants 18 through 20 years of age, and Child Habilitation Services.
- The Adult DD and ABI Waiver will offer new services designed to better meet participants and families' needs, including Companion Services and Homemaker Services.
- The Child DD Waiver will include the option to self-direct Support Services, including Respite, Personal Care, Child Habilitation Services, and Supported Living. Supported Employment and Companion Services is available for participants 18 through 20 years of age.
- The Adult DD and ABI Waivers will include the option to self-direct Support Services, including Respite, Personal Care, Supported Living, Companion Services, and Supported Employment.

For the Fiscal Year 2011, the Individually Budgeted Amount will be determined by the historical

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- annual plan units, multiplied by the posted service rates, minus one time costs.
- Respite services for Child DD, Adult DD and ABI Waivers cannot be provided during regular school hours or hours when the parent is working (school hours may vary by school district).
- Respite services for all three waivers will have a 2500 unit cap.
- For Child DD, Adult DD and ABI Waivers, home-based workers will only be able to provide services if they are working under one of the Financial Management Systems; Agency with Choice or Public Partnerships, LLC. Division staff will be contacting parents/guardians if they have providers on the plan of care that are considered home-based workers. A home-based worker is a certified provider who provides waiver services in the participant's/guardian's home and under the participant's/guardian's direction.
- Families with children under the age of 12 will have to pay the basic cost of child care unrelated to a child's disability.
- Day Habilitation will not be offered for participants aged 18-20 years old.
- Since there will continue to be separate waivers for children and adults, participants who turn 21 years of age will need to apply for the Adult DD or ABI Waivers and may be placed on a waiting list. The Division is committed to funding those individuals who are "aging out" of the Child DD Waiver.

Participants and families can continue receiving the same services they are currently receiving. In addition, the Adult DD and ABI Waivers will include these new services:

- Companion Services (to be used as a more appropriate service to families during work hours rather than respite)
- Independent Support Broker (Self-Direction only)
- Agency with Choice (Self-Direction only)
- Option of self-directing Respite, Personal Care, Companion Services, Supported Living, or Supported Employment
- Individual Directed Goods and Services (Self-direction with budget authority only)
- Unpaid Caregiver Training and Education (Self-direction with budget authority only)

### The Child DD Waiver will include these new services:

- Child Habilitation (to be used as a more appropriate service to families during work hours rather than respite)
- Companion Services (available to those 18-20 years of age and may be used in place of services previously provided as personal care or respite)
- Supported Living (for participants 18-20 years of age that want to live on their own with some supports)
- Supported Employment (available to those 18-20 years of age)
- Independent Support Broker (Self-Direction only)
- Agency with Choice (Self-Direction only)
- Option of self-directing Respite, Personal Care, Residential Habilitation Training, Child Habilitation Service, and Companion Services, Supported Living, or Supported Employment for participants 18-20 years of age.
- Individual Directed Goods and Services (Self-direction with budget authority only)
- Unpaid Caregiver Training and Education (Self-direction with budget authority only)

The renewed Child DD Waiver and the amended Adult DD and ABI Waivers will begin July 1, 2010. If participants, parents or guardians would like to self-direct their services (home-based workers will only

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be available through self-direction) or replace an existing service with a new service, this can be done at any time after July 1, 2010, through a team meeting and plan modification to the individual plan of care.

All of the changes listed above allow the Division to accomplish many of the outcomes we were trying to achieve by starting the Support Options and Comprehensive Waivers, including the addition of new services, adding self direction, addressing the home-based worker issues.

The Division is providing two informational webinars to give further information to Case Mangers concerning the changes mentioned in this letter and to answer questions you may have. The dates, times and log on information are provided below. The Division is always a resource for you to use when answering questions that participants or family members may have concerning the waiver changes.

# April 12, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat for this session, please register at: <a href="https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/667925371">https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/667925371</a>

OR

## April 13, 2010 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To Reserve your seat for this session, please register at: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/884066059

The webinar shows the presentation on your computer screen, but you must also call in to 877-278-8686, PIN number 252484, in order to hear the audio. If you do not pre-register for the webinar, you will not be able to access the presentation.

If you are interested in receiving more information on self-directing services, Public Partnerships, LLC will be in Wyoming during the month of May to enroll participants who want to self-direct and use their services. The dates, times and locations are still being determined and you will be notified by mail as soon as they are scheduled.

We hope that you will join us for the informational webinar to learn more about the renewal of the Child DD Waiver and the amendments to the Adult DD and ABI waivers. If you would like to contact the Division regarding the changes, please contact our Cheyenne office at (800) 510-0280 or one of the Division staff members listed below.

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Sincerely,

Chris Newman, Administrator Developmental Disabilities Division Wyoming Department of Health